

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

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FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

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SUBJECT: PRESS HIGHLIGHTS - THURSDAY, MAY 22, 1975

1. "ZAIRE HARBORS NO TERRITORIAL AMBITIONS IN REGARD TO ANGOLA OR CABINDA," STATED ZAIRIAN PRESIDENT MOBUTU SESE SEKO IN AN INTERVIEW TO AZAP WHICH WAS CARRIED IN AN ANGOLAN NEWSPAPER. HE ADDED THAT ZAIRE WILL NOT MAKE ANY OBJECTION TO THE EVENTUAL DECISION ON CABINDA BY THE CABINDANS. "ZAIRIANS, OF COURSE, CANNOT BE COMPLETELY DISINTERESTED, AS CABINDA IS SEPARATED FROM ANGOLA GEOGRAPICALLY BY ZAIRE." ALONGSIDE THE ARTICLE THE PAPER RAN A PHOTO OF TROOPS FROM ALL THREE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS AND THE PORTUGUESE ARMY GUARDING THE RADIO STATION IN CABINDA, WITH THE CAPTION STATING THESE MEN ARE DETERMINED TO DEFEND CABINDA AGAINST ANY FOREIGN THREAT."

2. THE MINISTER OF INTERIOR, N'GOLA KABANGU (FNLA), CALLED ON WORKERS TO MAINTAIN PEACE AND ORDERLINESS DURING THE BELATED MAY DAY CELEBRATIONS ON MAY 22. THE FOLLOWING ESTABLISHMENTS WERE TOLD THEY DID NOT HAVE TO CLOSE THEIR DOORS: CLINCS, SUPERMARKETS, HOTELS, RESTAURANTS AND PUBLIC UTILITIES. NO BUSINESSES WERE ORDER TO CLOSE.

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3. THE RADIO SPOKESMAN FOR UNITA AND FNLA ANNOUNCED ON MAY 21 AND MAY 22 THAT THEIR SYMPATHIZERS SHOULD CONTINUE TO WORK NORMALLY DURING MPLA'S STRIKE AND SHOULD BOYCOTT THE MPLA SPONSORED DEMONSTRATION.

4. SHOOTING BROKE OUT IN THE HEART OF LOBITO ON MAY 21 AT ABOUT 6:30 PM. NO ONE KNOW WHO STARTED THE SHOOTING, WHICH LASTED 15-20 MINUTES, NOR, MORE IMPORTANTLY, WHY. BEST INDICATIONS ARE THAT UNITA AND MPLA HAD A MISUNDERSTANDING OVER A HOUSE BOTH CLAIMED TO HAVE RENTED. MUCH DAMAGE OCCURED TO PRIVATELY-OWNED VEHICLES PARKED NEARBY AS WELL AS TO DWELLINGS SITUATED NEAR UNITA'S HEADQUARTERS BUILDING. UNITA VEHICLES STATIONED IN FRONT OF THE HEADQUARTERS AND AN MPLA JEEP WERE RIDDLED WITH BULLETS, BUT NO CASUALTIES WERE NOTED. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS REPORTS THE PORTUGUESE ARMED FORCES APPEARED ON THE SCENE, AND, ACTING OUT ITS NEWLY ADOPTED ROLE AS PEACEKEEPER, STOPPED THE FIGHTING, CALMED THE PEOPLE AND SENT THEM HOME. LATEST REPORTS INDICATE CITY LIFE HAS RETURNED TO NORMAL, ALTHOUGH THE POPULACE REMAINS TENSE.
PORTER

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